INDOORS AND OUT.

The Farm, Orchard, Garden, and Household.

NOTES AND HINTS FOR ALL.

To Make Rye Bread—Management of Cows—Feeding Stock—Polled Cattle—Other Notes.

Do not be afraid to mix sulphur and red pepper with a mess of warm feed for your chickens twice or three times a week. It tends to keep them in good health.

A correspondent of the *Prairie Farmer* says common kerosene oil will stop the troublesome itching of mane and tail experienced by horses. Rub the hair well, this kills the lice that cause the irritation.

Hampshiredown ewes are said to be remarkable for bringing twins. Sometimes as high as twenty per cent. more are raised than there are ewes, that is, one hundred and twenty lambs to one hundred ewes.

Contrary to the generally received opinion, M. Aime concludes from experiments conducted on himself that whole meal or household bread, containing all the ingredients of the grain, is less wholesome and more indigestible than pure white bread made of the flour alone.

Moss on currant or gooseberry bushes may be killed by applying soap-suds at any time, although it is better to do it when there are no leaves. Several applications may be required, but as the suds is an excellent fertilizer, the trouble will be more than compensated for by the increased growth.

The following makes a splendid washing fluid: One pound of washing soda, quarter pound of unslacked lime, (or a tea-cup full of good whitewash), one gallon of water. Boil up and then set aside to settle. Use one tea-cup full to each boiler of clothes, and it will take out dirt and stains with almost no rubbing. It will not injure the clothes.

An exchange in speaking of the proper feeding and management of milch cows, says: Sir J. B. Lawes, has lately published some experiments by which he finds that he can increase the fat in the milk by the use of rich food, or he can reduce it by the use of poor watery food. Considering this as settled that the quality of milk is controlled by the quality of the food, what an important interence may we draw in relation to the general improvement of our cattle! It is that every breed is yet capable of great improvement in all its points by feeding.

Many cooks fancy that it is a great undertaking to make rye bread, and to have it good. Here are directions for making it, and if carefully followed the bread will be excellent: Take two cups of Indian meal; make in a thick batter with scalding water; when cool, add a small cup of white bread sponge, a little sugar and salt, and a teaspoonful of soda, dissolved. In this stir as much rye as is possible with a spoon; let it rise until it is very light; then work in with your hand as much rye as you can, but do not knead it, as that will make it hard; put in buttered bread-tins and let it rise for about fifteen minutes; then bake for an hour and a half, cooling the oven gradually for the last twenty minutes.

A breeder of Hereford cattle says: "I think the cross with the Shorthorn improves the Shorthorn—but not the Hereford. I hold that the Hereford is of all the breeds, I crossed with any of the other families that will maintain down through several generations his peculiarities—his drooped horns, his white face and frosted brisket, his deep chest and rounded ribs and bright red colors.

"As evidence of his ability to live in a cold climate, I may state that the hide of a whiteface will weigh from ten to twenty-five pounds more than will the hide from any other animal of the size I have ever tested, lest it be the buffalo. This hide protects them from the cold of winter and shelters them from the burning sun. The cow will dry her milk earlier in the fall than most breeds, and thus gather strength for the winter. The calf will do better from being weaned early, since he has early learned to rustle and depend upon himself for food. A whiteface cow is seldom found dead upon the range in the spring.

Dr. Nichols, of the Boston *Journal*, of Chemistry, found that the cooling of the cows' legs by standing in a pool of cool water in hot days in the summer to avoid the annoyance of flies, diminishes their flow of milk. His observations were carefully and repeatedly made, and there could be no mistaking the fact that the chilling of their feet and legs decreased their milk secretions, so sensitive are cows to the influence of cold. Such being the case, says Mr. L. B. Arnold, in *Farmer's Advocate*, what must be the effect upon cows which, at this time of the year, have not only their feet and legs, but their whole bodies, not only moderately, but severely chilled, by standing out in the cool winds and storms needlessly all day, or have their legs, teats and ears and tails nearly frozen by standing still too long in a cold stable? The observations are worth remembering by every dairyman in these high latitudes, as a warning against exposures to the inclemencies of the seasons. How many dairymen have any clear appreciation of just how much chilling a cow will bear before her milk will begin to shrink or her flesh begin to give way? Not many.

The following is the opinion of the *State Vetenarians* of Illinois: As to giving cut hay without ground feed to mix with it, it is not absolutely necessary to grind feed. By mixing cut hay with whole grain, the mastication of the hay is better insured. Many horses swallow their food in great haste, and if large, this is dangerous. The stomach is filled; overloaded, before it acts on its contents. The food ferments, and the horse takes colic, which is often fatal. But adding cut hay to grain, the horse must take more time to eat. Satiety takes place before the stomach is overloaded, and time is given for digestion to begin before fermentation can occur. In this way chaff is very useful, especially where the horse receives large meals after long fasts. For old horses, having bad teeth and for those at work all day, food easily eaten gives more time, for with long hay the horse's teeth do work that is done by the chaffing machine. Horses having bad teeth, particularly heavy draft-horses, seldom eat a large allowance of fodder. Their jaws tire before appetite is satisfied. Such horses, except when out of work, should have ground feed and cut hay. At first they may eat it less heartily, but in general this happens for a short time.

The *Prairie Farmer* advises its readers to remember next spring, when planting potatoes, to put in each hill a couple of flax seeds. That is, if you have faith in what a Wisconsin man says he has proven, viz.: that the growing flax plants will keep off the potato bugs.

At the last meeting of the Illinois Wool Growers' Association, a member said: "I am satisfied that the free use of sulphur will prevent, if not cure, the scab in sheep. Two flocks of sheep on farms adjoining mine, were badly affected with the scab, and several times, for three or four years, a scabby sheep would occasionally be with mine, and I did not then and never did have scabby sheep. While these scabby flocks were near me and for two or three years after I fed freely of sulphur. Should I ever have scabby sheep I would use sulphur freely inside and outside before trying any other remedy."

Josiah Hoopes says: "We frequently notice plants tied up in a huge mass of straw, as if the owner intended to prevent air ever reaching them, and in many instances he accomplishes this end. The plant is really smothered to death, or else is quite often rotted by the dampness that accumulates, and which mostly causes a growth of mold destructive to plant life. The true object of protecting the portion of the plant above ground is to shield it from the vicissitudes of our changeful climate; and while aiming at this, carefully avoid using any material that will prevent a free circulation of air through the branches. There can be nothing better than evergreen boughs for the purpose, but in fact, anything will answer that thoroughly shades the tops from the sun, while breaking the force of high, cold winds. Keeping the plant warm by means of covering was long since classed as an exploded idea."

Some people, on every occasion when opportunity offers, take pains to remove all the stones they can see from the soil in their gardens. Perhaps it might not be too much to say that, nine times in ten, mischief is done rather than good by the practice. Stones in soil serve more than one useful purpose. When laying on the surface, they act as a mulch, checking evaporation. Their slow decay and disintegration by the frost and the action of the elements contribute to the replacement of the food extracted from the soil by the roots of plants. When the staple of the soil is a stuff clay, their action is particularly beneficial, as they break up its coherency and modify the texture. Professor Wrightson, in his handbook of "Agriculture," says: "Many soils now worked as light lands would be unworkable clay were they not lightened up and divided by countless stones." It is true light, stony soils soon dry up, the water easily percolating through them, and subsoil being generally of the same character, water is soon drained away. Further, stones absorb no moisture, the amount of moisture absorbed by the soil being in the inverse ratio (other things being equal) to the quantity of stones it contains. But removing the stones will not remedy the evil. That would not add to the stock of moisture, neither would that removal increase the quantity of plant food nor enlarge the extent of root room. With regard to the last-mentioned particular, the only effect of the removal of the stones would be to make the soil shallower. There is yet another office performed by stones in the soil. By breaking its continuity it checks capillarity or the upward motion of its moisture to the surface, thereby indirectly retarding evaporation. Howbeit, if the subsoil contained marterials of sufficient quantity and suitable to the end, and it were practicable by deep trenching, with the removal of the stones, to form a soil of sufficient depth and of suitable texture for the healthy, vigorous growth of plants, then the carrying out of the operation might prove an advantage.—*Ex.*

An experienced and extensive cattle raiser writing to an exchange, says: I will now give a few more reasons why I prefer to handle Polled cattle:

In the first place we all prefer those cattle that can be raised with the least trouble and expense—those that will give the best pay for the amount of feed consumed; those that can be shipped to market with the least expense, risk and shrinkage, and those that when on the market will bring top prices. The kind of cattle that will fill the bill are those that take the least room around feed-troughs, racks or ricks or in the barn, and waste the least; all this without injuring each other. Space for feeding purposes costs money, whether rack-room, trough-room or barn-room.

The Polled cattle will stand as close as sheep, to eat, and that, too, without injuring each other. You can safely let them run with any kind of stock and there will be no damage done. I never heard of a man being killed by a Polled bull, but we often read of men being killed by horned bulls. I never heard of any serious damage being done by Polled cattle; on the other hand, where is the farmer that has not suffered from the ill effects of horns? If not in property, in person?

When it comes to shipping to market, you can put at least one more in the car than you can of horned cattle of similar weight; so, in every fifteen or sixteen cars shipped you can save freight on one car. They do not hurt themselves or each other in the car as the horned cattle do, not having horns to hang in car-slats and break off, or hook and scar their neighbors. They are not so liable to get down in the car, and when down, they can get up more easily, having no horns to hold them down. It is the horns that causes the principal part of the trouble in shipping.

It is a well-known fact that when an animal is suffering pain of any kind, he is shrinking more rapidly than one that is being transported without pain; consequently the shrinkage is liable to be heavier on a car of horned cattle than a car of Polled cattle. Why raise cattle with horns, when we can raise them equally as good, if not better, without horns?